

My husband has had some serious health problems, and I have been interrupted at all hours of the day and night. For example, after my husband's heart bypass surgery in 1998 he was seriously ill and in great pain. He was so tired that he would try to get some sleep at about 7pm. He would barely fall asleep when the phone would ring, waking him up. He then spent the entire night wide awake because he could never get back to sleep. My friends and neighbors knew better than to call us for this very reason. I had to shut my telephones off. This prevented me from knowing if my 82 year old father was trying to call me with a problem or an emergency.

Since I pay for my phone service, I should have the right to choose who I want to accept calls from! Solicitors should be made to pay toward my phone bill account for the privilege of using services I pay for. It is like stealing my money and is an invasion of my privacy. How about charging solicitors \$1 per call. If it could not be returned to the taxpayer, it could be put in a fund to use the next time the phone companies ask for a rate increase.